Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter.

1. (Currently Amended) An element management system (EMS) for managing elements of a communication network, comprising:

memory for storing a provision template ~~data~~, the provision template ~~data~~ having control values that have been defined via user input for provisioning network elements of the communication network, one of the control values ~~a user-defined value~~ indicative of how a user has specified a network element attribute is to be provisioned; and

a system controller configured to identify, based on user input, a plurality of network elements ~~within the communication network based on user input~~ to which the provision template is to be applied and to automatically provision each of the identified network elements by updating a respective configuration of each of the identified network elements ~~the network element attribute for each of the identified network elements~~ based on the ~~user-defined~~ one control value ~~stored in memory~~.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The EMS of claim 1, wherein:

the EMS is interfaced with a plurality of clients;

the memory stores sets of graphical user interface (GUI) code, each of the sets of GUI code defining a different GUI;

the system controller is configured to select one of the sets of GUI codes and to provide the selected set of GUI code to one of the clients; and

the one client is configured to display a GUI based on the selected set of GUI code and to define the provision template data based on user inputs received by the one client, the one client further configured to transmit the provision template data to the EMS.

4. (Currently Amended) The EMS of claim 1, wherein the EMS is interfaced with a plurality of clients, and wherein the system controller is configured to receive the provision template data from one of the clients and to store the received provision template data in the memory.

5. (Currently Amended) The EMS of claim 4, wherein the system controller receives the provision template data from the one client during a first communication session that is between the EMS and the one client, and wherein the system controller is configured to provide the provision template data to another of the clients during a second communication session that is between the EMS and the other client.

6. (Previously Presented) The EMS of claim 5, wherein the system controller is configured to automatically provision each of the identified network elements in response to a request received from the other client during the second communication session.

7. (Currently Amended) The EMS of claim 5, wherein the system controller is configured to receive template data from the other client during the second communication session and to update the provision template data stored in the memory based on the template data received from the other client.

8. (Currently Amended) An element management system (EMS) for managing elements of a communication network, comprising:

memory; and

a system controller configured to receive a provision template and to store the provision template in the memory, the provision template having control values that have been defined via user input for provisioning network elements of the communication network, the provision template correlated with a plurality of network elements to which the provision template is to be applied, each of the control values specified by a user for controlling a respective network element attribute for each of the correlated network elements, the system controller configured to receive a request that identifies the provision template and to retrieve the provision template in response to the request, the system controller further configured to select a plurality of network elements within the communication network and to automatically provision, in response to the request, each of the selected correlated network elements based on each of the control values of the retrieved provision template.

- 4 -

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein:

the EMS is interfaced with a plurality of clients;

the system controller is configured to provide the ~~retrieved~~ provision template to one of

the clients ~~in response to the request~~;

the one client is configured to change the provision template based on user inputs and to

communicate the changed provision template to the EMS; and

the system controller, in provisioning the ~~selected~~ <u>correlated</u> network elements, is

configured to utilize control values indicated by the changed provision template.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The EMS of claim 8, wherein:

the EMS is interfaced with a plurality of clients;

the request is transmitted from one of the clients;

the system controller is configured to receive, from the one client, data that identifies ~~the~~

~~selected~~ <u>a plurality of</u> network elements; and

the system controller is configured to ~~select~~ <u>correlate the provision template with</u> each of

the ~~selected~~ network elements ~~based on~~ <u>identified by</u> the data received from the one client.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for managing elements of a communication network, comprising the steps of:

receiving <u>a provision</u> template ~~data~~, the <u>provision</u> template ~~data~~ having ~~user-defined~~ <u>control</u> values for controlling different network element attributes;

identifying<u>, based on user input,</u> a plurality of network elements ~~within the communication network based on user input~~ <u>to which the provision template is to be applied</u>;

automatically provisioning each of the identified network elements based on the ~~user-defined~~ <u>control</u> values, one of the ~~user-defined~~ <u>control</u> values ~~for controlling~~ <u>corresponds to</u> a particular network element ~~attribute,~~ <u>attribute for each of the identified network elements;</u> and

automatically controlling the particular network <u>element</u> attribute for each of the identified network elements based on the one ~~user-defined~~ <u>control</u> value of the <u>provision</u> template ~~data~~.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the provisioning step is performed in response to user input.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for managing elements of a communication network, comprising the steps of:

defining a <u>first</u> provision template based on user input, the <u>first</u> provision template having control values <u>and correlated with a plurality of network elements to which the first provision template is to be applied</u>, each of the control values ~~for controlling~~ <u>corresponding</u> a respective network element attribute <u>for each of the correlated network elements</u>;

receiving a request that identifies the <u>first</u> provision template; <u>and</u>

~~retrieving the provision template in response to the request;~~

~~selecting a plurality of network elements within the communication network; and~~

automatically provisioning, in response to the request, each of the ~~selected~~ correlated

network elements based on each of the control values of the retrieved first provision template.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

displaying the ~~retrieved~~ first provision template ~~in response to the request~~; and

updating the first provision template based on user inputs,

wherein the provisioning step includes the step of storing control values indicated by the

updated first provision template into each of the ~~selected~~ correlated network elements.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

defining a second provision template, wherein the second provision template has a

control value for controlling a particular network element attribute and wherein one of the

control values of the first provision template is for controlling the particular network element

attribute; and

selecting between the first and second provision templates based on the request, wherein

the ~~retrieving~~ provisioning step is based on the selecting between the first and second provision

templates step.

18. (Currently Amended) The EMS of claim 1, wherein the network element attribute

is line speed, and wherein the system controller establishes the line speed of each of the ~~plurality~~

~~of~~ identified network elements based on the one control value.

19. (Currently Amended) The EMS of claim 18, wherein one of the <u>correlated</u> network elements has a control value for controlling the line speed of the one network element, and wherein the system controller is configured to replace the control value of the one network element with the <u>one</u> control value of the <u>provision</u> template ~~data~~.

20. (Currently Amended) The EMS of claim 8, wherein one of the control values is for controlling a network element attribute, and wherein the system controller, in provisioning the ~~selected~~ <u>correlated</u> network elements, is configured to store the one control value in each of the <u>correlated</u> network elements such that the network element attribute for each of the <u>correlated</u> network elements is controlled by the one control value stored therein.

21. (Currently Amended) An element management method, comprising the steps of:

<u>allowing a user to specify a first control value for controlling a network element attribute;</u>

defining a first provision template ~~having a user-defined value for a network element attribute~~ <u>based on the first control value specified by the user</u>; and

provisioning a first plurality of network elements based on the first provision template, wherein the provisioning a first plurality of network elements step comprises the step of automatically setting, within each of the first plurality of network elements, a control value for the network element attribute based on ~~the user-defined~~ <u>the first control</u> value <u>specified by the user</u> ~~of the first provision template~~.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the setting further comprises storing, in ~~the user defined value in said~~ each of the first plurality of network elements, the first control value specified by the user.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the network element attribute is line speed, and wherein the first control value specified by the user indicates a particular line speed for the network elements.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

allowing the user to specify a second control value for controlling the network element attribute;

defining a second provision template ~~having a~~ based on the second ~~user defined~~ control value ~~for the network element attribute~~; and

provisioning a second plurality of network elements based on the second provision template, wherein the provisioning a second plurality of network elements step comprises the step of automatically setting, within each of the second plurality of network elements, a control value for the network element attribute based on ~~the user defined~~ the second control value ~~of the second provision template~~ specified by the user without the user repetitively specifying, for the second plurality of network elements, control values for controlling the network element attribute.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of selecting among the first and second provision templates based on a user input, wherein the provisioning a first plurality of network elements step is based on the selecting step.

26. (New) The EMS of claim 1, wherein the network element attribute for each of the identified network elements is provisioned by the system controller without the user repetitively specifying how the network element attribute is to be provisioned for the identified network elements.

27. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the controlling step is performed without the user repetitively specifying, for the identified network elements, control values for the network attribute.

28. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the defining and provisioning steps are performed without the user repetitively specifying, for the first plurality of network elements, control values for controlling the network element attribute.